



# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

1620 EYE STREET, NORTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006  
TELEPHONE (202) 293-7330  
FAX (202) 293-2352  
URL: [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org)

President:  
STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE  
Mayor of Baltimore

Vice President:  
MICK CORNETT  
Mayor of Oklahoma City

Second Vice President:  
MITCHELL J. LANDRIEU  
Mayor of New Orleans

Past Presidents:  
KEVIN JOHNSON  
Mayor of Sacramento  
ELIZABETH B. KAUTZ  
Mayor of Burnsville  
MICHAEL A. NUTTER  
Mayor of Philadelphia  
JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR.  
Mayor of Charleston, SC

Trustees:  
GREGORY A. BALLARD  
Mayor of Indianapolis  
BRYAN K. BARNETT  
Mayor of Rochester Hills  
SHANE T. BEMIS  
Mayor of Gresham  
STEPHEN K. BENJAMIN  
Mayor of Columbia, SC  
J. CHRISTIAN BOLLWAGE  
Mayor of Elizabeth  
JAMES BRAINARD  
Mayor of Carmel, IN  
MICHAEL B. COLEMAN  
Mayor of Columbus, OH  
JOY COOPER  
Mayor of Hallandale Beach  
T.M. FRANKLIN COWNIE  
Mayor of Des Moines, IA  
GREG FISCHER  
Mayor of Louisville  
KIM McMILLAN  
Mayor of Clarksville  
MIKE RAWLINGS  
Mayor of Dallas  
PEDRO E. SEGARRA  
Mayor of Hartford  
MARILYN STRICKLAND  
Mayor of Tacoma  
ASHLEY SWARENGIN  
Mayor of Fresno

Advisory Board:  
RALPH BECKER  
Mayor of Salt Lake City  
WILLIAM A. BELL, SR.  
Mayor of Birmingham  
RICHARD J. BERRY  
Mayor of Albuquerque  
MURIEL BOWSER  
Mayor of Washington, DC  
ARDELL F. BREDE  
Mayor of Rochester, MN  
CHRISTOPHER L. CABALDON  
Mayor of West Sacramento  
BILL de BLASIO  
Mayor of New York  
BUDDY DYER  
Mayor of Orlando  
BILL FINCH  
Mayor of Bridgeport  
CAROLYN G. GOODMAN  
Mayor of Las Vegas  
SYLVESTER "SLY" JAMES, JR.  
Mayor of Kansas City, MO  
WILLIAM P. KENOI  
Mayor of Hilo  
HARRY LaROSILLIERE  
Mayor of Plano  
EDWIN M. LEE  
Mayor of San Francisco  
KENNETH D. MIYAGISHIMA  
Mayor of Las Cruces  
FRANK C. ORTIS  
Mayor of Pembroke Pines  
ED PAWLOWSKI  
Mayor of Allentown  
MIGUEL A. PULIDO  
Mayor of Santa Ana  
MADELINE ROGERO  
Mayor of Knoxville  
JAMES J. SCHMITT  
Mayor of Green Bay  
FRANCIS G. SLAY  
Mayor of St. Louis  
PAUL SOGLIN  
Mayor of Madison, WI  
MARK STODOLA  
Mayor of Little Rock  
BETH VAN DUYN  
Mayor of Irving  
BRIAN C. WAHLER  
Mayor of Piscataway  
MARTIN J. WALSH  
Mayor of Boston  
SETTI WARREN  
Mayor of Newton  
NAN WHALEY  
Mayor of Dayton

CEO and Executive Director  
TOM COCHRAN

October 5, 2015

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2251 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster:

On behalf of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, I wanted to express our support for your bill, H.R. 3651, the "Positive Train Control Enforcement and Implementation Act of 2015."

As you know, under the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, railroads are required to implement Positive Train Control (PTC) by December 31, 2015 on railroad lines that ship toxic inhalation hazard (TIH) chemicals and on passenger rail. TIH chemicals include chlorine, anhydrous ammonia, ethylene oxide and hydrogen fluoride. TIH products are essential for local government efforts to ensure that drinking water and wastewater treatment is effective and protects public health.

The Class I railroads, the Federal Railroad Administration, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office have all said that the December 31, 2015 deadline for PTC implementation is unattainable. While we believe railroads would have a common carrier obligation to continue to ship these essential products, we are nevertheless concerned about a possible disruption based on recent comments from the railroad industry.

TIH materials are essential to the economy and public health. We are very concerned that railroads will attempt to refuse shipments of these products such as chlorine that is used to protect public safety in drinking water and for disinfecting wastewater. Public water utilities rely on chlorination in combination with other treatment methods to eliminate public health threats from biological agents. The lack of chlorine will surely increase the risk of increased illness and mortality from infectious agents.

In addition, if the rails refuse to ship these chemicals, the only other viable alternative is to use trucks for transport, which is inherently more dangerous due to the potential accidents and potential releases into our communities.

The earliest workable implementation of PTC is desired. However, given that PTC will not be fully implemented and tested, and railroad employees will not be fully trained by the end of the year, we urge every member of Congress to support your legislation.

If you have any questions, please contact my staff, Judy Sheahan (202-861-6775 [jsheahan@usmayors.org](mailto:jsheahan@usmayors.org)) or Kevin McCarty (202-861-6728 [kmccarty@usmayors.org](mailto:kmccarty@usmayors.org)). Thank you again for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cochran". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tom Cochran  
CEO and Executive Director